

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior **Grand Teton National Park**

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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Bridger-Teton National Forest



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Interagency News Release

For Immediate Release September 22, 2006

Interagency Fire Managers Plan for Fall Season Prescribed Fires

Teton interagency fire managers plan to use prescribed fire to treat approximately 3,736 acres during the coming fall months. Interagency fire personnel from Grand Teton National Park, Bridger-Teton National Forest, and the Teton and Sublette County Fire will work cooperatively to execute these prescribed-fire projects. The proposed project areas include:

BAR B C – A 20-acre unit near the historic dude ranch in Grand Teton National Park planned to reduce fuels around the development to aid in future suppression efforts, and to preserve the historic landscape.

Signal Mountain West – A 300-acre project at the base of Signal Mountain across from Signal Mountain Lodge designed to reduce hazardous fuels for future protection of the developed area.

Eynon Ridge – An 806-acre unit on Eynon Ridge scheduled to restore fire in former aspen communities and set succession back to an early stage. This project has been planned in cooperation with the Jackson Hole Interagency Habitat Initiative work group and Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Jenny Lake and Lizard Creek Campgrounds – Debris piles from hazard fuels reduction projects completed in 2005 will be burned.

Monument Ridge – An 810-acre project southwest of Bondurant designed to reduce hazardous fuels and create a buffer to protect private property and structures in the area, while improving wildlife habitat.

Wiener Creek – A 1,800-acre unit located down the Greys River, approximately 10 miles south of Alpine, planned to restore decadent aspen stands and improve sagebrush habitat for wildlife benefits. In addition, risks to human safety will be increased as fire breaks are created by reducing conifer forests that currently encroach on the sagebrush and aspen communities in this area.

Hoback Ranches – Debris piles from a fuels treatment completed in 2005 will be burned later this fall following the first significant snowfall of the season.

Some of the prescribed-fire projects will focus on creating defensible space around park developments and target accumulations of flammable fuels to minimize the risk of future high-intensity wildland fires. The prescribed fires will also create a mosaic of burned and unburned areas, resulting in improved wildlife habitat through increased plant diversity and vigorous regrowth. Many wildlife species, such as moose, elk and bison, are expected to graze and browse on the grasses, forbs and willows that regenerate after treatment with fire.

Prescribed-fire ignitions will proceed when favorable weather and fire behavior conditions are met. Smoke will be evident during the day of the burn and may persist for several days after, especially in mountain valleys during early morning and evening hours. Local residents and visitors are requested to exercise caution in the vicinity of the prescribed-fires. Minimal traffic restrictions may occur to allow for public and firefighter safety, and fire equipment access.

For further information about the prescribed-fire projects, please call 307.739.3300 or 307.739.5500.